

"What I denied was the symbol or image of the 'act' perpetual, eternal and conscious."

"Is it a definition of God you intend giving in these words?"

"It is what you call God. Ask me no more—the vibrations are about to cease."

"What do you call vibration?"

There was no answer.

The features of Miss X, now changed back and the Doctor made haste to awaken her by a few quick passes. All at once she sat straight up in her chair. Dr. N. led her away to a neighboring room and the company dispersed.

The account here given is an exact report of the questions and answers of this "interview" from beyond the tomb. It only remains to point out that some of the thoughts expressed, such as the impossibility of repentance or any exercise of free will after death, correspond with the teachings of Catholic theology, while the idea of soul as an element is not unlike the teachings of the French physiologist, Claude Bennard. The nature of God as an eternal act and of the soul as not being in a place although derived from theology, were common speculations of Dr. Charcot when explaining remarkable instances of knowledge in his patients.

#### LITTLE NOTES.

PRONOUNCE golf as though it were spelled gowf, please. The London Daily News says so.

PRINCESS MAY CANTACUZENE, daughter of the Russian minister, won the second medal at the Corcoran Art School recently.

SANDOW, the strong man, will be married soon to Miss Brooks, daughter of a wealthy manufacturer in Bradford, England.

JULIA WARD HOWE received only \$5 for her famous "Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was first printed in the Atlantic Monthly.

A WOMAN in Cambridge, England, who has built up a successful business in typewriting, has obtained a machine fitted with the Greek alphabet and mathematical signs so she can utilize it for the benefit of mathematical and classical scholars.

#### WHAT TO READ.

READ poetry. It enriches the mind with ideals that may become real.

READ the Bible. It gives promise of the future and strengthens the soul.

READ science. It supplies information that equips for usefulness and prevents the triumph of error.

READ romance. The examples of its heroes are an exaltation, and tend to the formation of noble character.

READ history. It is the story of the progress of human life. It teaches by example and stimulates to endeavor.

READ philosophy. It imparts wisdom to consider all things, knowledge to understand all things and fortitude to endure all things.

#### EASY-GOING KING HUMBERT.

His One Conspicuous Weakness a Fondness for Military Display.

King Humbert has the reputation of being the most constitutional of all the constitutional monarchs of Europe. So well has he fulfilled this rule that, according to the Baltimore Sun, he may be said to have, save in one point only, completely extinguished his personality. That point is his determination, at all costs, to keep up the army and navy to their present state of efficiency and numbers. The various ministries that have succeeded each other in Italy with such rapidity have really governed the state. This one condition they had to accept—the maintenance of the army as desired by the king. His usual costume on gala days and when he shows himself to his subjects is the military costume. He is the first soldier in Italy. That he possesses great courage has been made fully evident by his devotion when, the cholera having broken out with virulence in Naples, he visited the sick and dying day after day in their low and unhealthy dwellings. What he may be as a legislator, a thinker, or a wit, the public is not informed. No legislative measures of paramount benefit or importance are attributed to his initiative; no striking thought that might enter the heart of the nation has been pronounced by him or has reached the people; even the faculty of making a witty phrase, which, though little in itself, being uttered by one in high place acquires a value and a currency which carries it far and renders popular its originator, is not a quality which he possesses. A generous, good-natured, easy-going gentleman, who desires to live and let live—in fact, a person of rather neutral characteristics—is the picture that people make to themselves of King Humbert. He is to the fore when a review is held. He looks well when, arrayed in grand military costume and riding a noble steed and surrounded by the exceptionally brilliant staff of the Italian army, he reviews the troops in their march past him. Again, when seated in one of the gala carriages, accompanied by the tall, steel-clad royal guards, he goes to open a new session of parliament he is a figure well worth noticing. So deeply has the military spirit entered into the nation that the king is never publicly seen on state occasions in any other than a military costume.

#### FOUND IN THE PEAT BEDS.

Remains of Prehistoric Animals Discovered in England.

From time to time the peat beds at Newbury have yielded abundant remains of prehistoric animals which in primeval ages roamed along the Kennet valley, when the physical conditions obtaining in western Europe were altogether different from those which now prevail—before, in fact, the present insular position was brought about. In these peat beds, according to a London dispatch, have been found the remains of the colossal mammoth, including the

portion of a tusk which, when entire, must have been ten to twelve feet in length, together with the bones, teeth or horns of other animals which have utterly disappeared from the face of the earth. The drainage works which are now being carried on in the town of Newbury have brought to light, mostly in a high state of preservation, numerous bones, skulls, and other fossil portions of animals which lived on subsequently to the disappearance of the post-glacial mammals, such as the wolf, bear, wild boar, red deer, roe, goat, dog, fox, horse. Various objects of flint, characterizing the age of stone, have also been found in the lower layers of the peat, from which it is evident that the prehistoric inhabitants of the river valley possessed great dexterity in the fabrication of these primitive weapons and tools, some of the "knives" being beautifully chipped and presenting an edge almost as fine as a razor. Several articles of a later epoch have been also met with, forming a curious melange, such as bronze buckles of many kinds, implements of bone, Roman pottery, a few coins, a variety of keys. In the upper or made earth of the cuttings in that part of the town fought over by cavalier and roundhead many relics of the period have been found, including portions of swords, stirrup-irons, spurs, bridles, horseshoes and many other things of this date.

#### A Gigantic Undertaking.

Undismayed by their experience in the Suez and Panama enterprises, the French are undertaking to build another great canal. They have now determined to connect the Bay of Biscay with the Mediterranean by a canal over 400 miles long, from 144 to 215 feet wide and from 28 to 34 feet deep, and with widened passing places every eight miles. There will be twenty-two locks, each 650 feet in length and 80 feet in width. The cost is calculated at \$100,000,000. It is, however, safe to say that it will be much more. It is claimed by its promoters that besides greatly expediting commerce, this waterway will be of vast political significance. If it could only be kept open in war, Gibraltar, the strongest fort in the world, would be rendered useless, and France, instead of England, would hold the "Key to the Mediterranean."

#### Unfortunate M. De Lesseps.

The great and unfortunate M. De Lesseps in his extreme old age finds himself a very poor man. He married late in life and has a family of thirteen children. It is generally believed that the blunders of the Panama were not criminal on his part. But recalling his past great services to commerce in the construction of the Suez canal, it is proposed by a majority of the shareholders that during the rest of M. De Lesseps's life he shall be given an annuity of 60,000 francs, or about \$12,000, and that after his death and till his youngest child is of age, 40,000 francs a year shall go to the widow and children. This illustrates that there are cases when great corporations show they are not soulless.